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Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the Second Committee**

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 57 (see A/60/493, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 30th and 36th meetings, on 15 November and 13 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is given in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.30 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.31 and A/C.2/60/L.61

2. At the 30th meeting, on 15 November 2005, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "South-South Cooperation" (A/C.2/60/L.31), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003,

"*Taking note* of the Marrakesh Declaration and the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation, adopted at the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, held at Marrakesh, Morocco from 16 to 19 December 2003,

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** The report of the Second Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/60/493 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*Taking note also* of the Doha Declaration and the Doha Plan of Action, adopted at the Second South Summit, held at Doha from 12 to 16 June 2005,

"*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session and endorses the decisions taken at that session;

"2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

"3. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

"4. *Also stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterates the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation;

"5. *Recognizes* that regional integration initiatives between developing countries constitute an important and valuable form of South-South cooperation and that regional integration is a step towards beneficial integration into the world economy;

"6. *Welcomes* the initiatives being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms aiming to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment;

"7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the launching of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as an important instrument to stimulate South-South cooperation;

"8. *Recognizes* the considerable contribution of South-South cooperation arrangements which promote development activities in developing countries;

"9. *Also recognizes* the importance of initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, to undertake efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of information and communication technologies, science and technology, culture, health and education;

"10. *Welcomes* the contribution made by developing countries to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters, including through the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation within the framework for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster and the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance;

"11. *Welcomes* the initiatives contained in the Doha Plan of Action adopted by the Second South Summit held at Doha from 12 to 16 June 2005;

"12. *Urges* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, and in this regard takes note of the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit, the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation on South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action;

"13. *Encourages* the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;

"14. *Stresses* the importance of support to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in its work to encourage scientific/technological capacity-building among developing countries;

"15. *Invites* countries in a position to do so to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries through regular contributions at the annual United Nations pledging conference in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/263 of 20 December 2002 and 58/220;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to rename the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, which was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, as the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to designate it as the main multilateral funding mechanism for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular initiatives;

"17. *Urges* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

"18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultations with Member States, to take concrete measures to further strengthen the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through the mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation including through triangular cooperation;

"19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session a sub-item entitled South-South cooperation for development, and requests the Secretary-General to submit at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 13 December 2005, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "South-South Cooperation" (A/C.2/60/L.61) submitted by

the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.31.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/60/SR.36).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.61 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.61, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling further its resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, which, inter alia, called on organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream, in their programmes and through their country-level activities and country offices, modalities to support South-South cooperation,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session[2] and the decisions taken at that session;[3]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[4]

3. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterates the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation;

5. *Encourages* the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;

6. *Recognizes* that regional integration initiatives between developing countries constitute an important and valuable form of South-South cooperation and that regional integration is a step towards beneficial integration into the world economy;

7. *Welcomes* the initiatives and partnerships being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms aiming to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the launching of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries as an important instrument to stimulate South-South cooperation;

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/60/39).

[3] Ibid., chap. I.

[4] A/60/257.

9. *Recognizes* the considerable contribution of South-South cooperation arrangements, which promote development activities in developing countries;

10. *Also recognizes* the importance of initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, in the undertaking of efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of information and communication technologies, science and technology, culture, health and education;

11. *Welcomes* the contributions made by developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters, including through the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation within the framework for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster and the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance;

12. *Urges* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, and in this regard takes note of the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit,[5] the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action;[6]

13. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, reiterates in this context its decision, in its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, to include the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as long as it exists, recalls the decision to include the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the same Pledging Conference, and invites all countries, in particular developed countries, to support South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, these funds, bearing in mind the need for these funds to continue to use such resources in an effective manner;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to rename the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, which was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, as the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, while maintaining its mandate and voluntary nature, and to designate it as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular initiatives;

15. *Invites* the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme Executive Board, as appropriate, to consider measures to strengthen further the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation within the United Nations Development Programme as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation in the United Nations system, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through the mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation;

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[5] A/55/74, annex II.

[6] A/60/111, annex II.

16. *Decides to* include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session a sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the Secretary-General to submit at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and on the implementation of the present resolution.